

MAY 18 2009

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Application No.: 10/578,703) CUSTOMER NO. 27717
Applicant: Michael John Watchorn)
Filed: July 10, 2006) Confirmation No. 3884
Docket No.: 37389-405400) Examiner: Gary S. Hartmann
Mailing Date: May 18, 2009) Group Art Unit: 3671
Title: ACCESS METHOD BETWEEN MARINE)
STRUCTURES AND APPARATUS)

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

Dear Sir:

This is in response to the Office Action dated March 24, 2009, in which the examiner required restriction to one of the following inventions:

Group I, claims 1-6 and 45-49, drawn to a method;

Group II, claims 7-37 and 63, drawn to an apparatus; and

Group III, claims 50-61, drawn to an apparatus.

Certificate of Transmission/Mailing

I hereby certify that on May 18, 2009 this document is being facsimile transmitted (fax #571-273-8300) to the USPTO or deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner of Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.


Deborah E. Dudek

CIII 11725079.1

Application Serial No. 10/578,703
Response to Restriction Requirement of March 24, 2009

Applicants hereby elect, without traverse, the invention of Group I, drawn to a method, for further prosecution on the merits in this application. Applicant contends that Claims 1-6 and 45-49 correspond to the elected species and are likewise elected for further prosecution. All other claims will be treated as withdrawn unless and until they are either cancelled from or rejoined to the present application.

Should any formalities remain, the examiner is respectfully requested to phone the undersigned attorney to expedite examination of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,

By 

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